

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include formal drawings of Figs. 1-7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets 1-3

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant submits formal drawing sheets 1-3 to address the informalities indicated on the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-15, 20-23, 25 and 26 remain in this application. Claims 3-6, 8, 16-19, 24 and 27 have been canceled.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 14-16, 17 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,960,758 (Giannone et al.). The examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6, 14-16 and 20-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,054,440 (Kadokawa). The examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 14, 16, 17 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,604,498 (Fernandez et al.). The examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of Kadokawa. The examiner rejected claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of Giannone et al., Kadokawa or Fernandez et al. The examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in view of Kadokawa in combination with U.S. Patent No. 4,614,171 (Malhotra). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claim 1 recites a finger follower having a main body, a shaft assembly and a cam follower. The shaft assembly includes a first portion with a first diameter and a second portion with a smaller diameter. The first portion rotates relative to the second portion and the second portion is fixed against rotation relative to the main body. The cam follower includes an outer ring with a plurality of rolling elements positioned between the outer ring and the shaft assembly first portion such that the outer ring, rolling elements and the shaft assembly first portion are rotatable relative to one another. The relative rotation of the outer ring, rolling elements and the shaft assembly first portion and the rotation of the shaft assembly first portion relative to the shaft assembly second portion continuously changes the point of contact between the outer ring, the rolling elements, the shaft assembly first portion and the shaft assembly second portion, thereby preventing any of the components from experiencing continuous wear at a given point. The continuous relative rotation extends the life of the finger follower assembly.

None of the cited references, alone or in any reasonable combination, teaches or suggests the claimed invention. The Giannone et al. sleeve 134 is press fitted onto the shaft 122 (see col. 4, lns. 66-67). Kadokawa teaches as undesirable the configuration illustrated in Figs. 15-16 based on the small clearance between the bush 12 and shaft 8 and suggests eliminating the bush

12 and replacing the bush 12 with rollers as shown in Figs. 17-18 (see col. 2, lns. 38-55). The pin 22 of Fernandez et al. is axially moveable and there is no teaching or suggestion to fix the pin 22 against rotation.

It is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1, 2, 7, 9-15, 20-23, 25 and 26 are in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

If the examiner believes an interview, either telephonic or in person, will advance the prosecution of this matter, it is respectfully requested that the examiner get in contact with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Massina', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Attachments